

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Park and Recreation Conference Room
11th Floor, City Hall
Monday, August 10, 2009
3:30 p.m.**

Present: Bryan Frye, Tom Roth, John Stevens, Andy Solter, Matt Goolsby

Absent: Randy Brown

Also Present: Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Karen Walker, Assistant Director of Park and Recreation, Kelly Rundell, Deputy City Attorney, Lee Ann Sack, Clerk

Interim President Frye called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC AGENDA

None.

REGULAR AGENDA

Item 1: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Goolsby, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Park Board meeting minutes of July 13, 2009.

Item 2A: Partnership with Friends University and West Side Athletic Fields

Joe Zimmerman, Director of Athletics, Friends University, presented the Board of Park Commissioners with a partnership possibility concerning West Side Athletic Fields. Friends University Baseball would like to utilize the main field as their home field. The location offers greater accessibility for students and visitors with closer proximity to the campus. Friends University plays NAIA in a ten team conference.

The proposed agreement could provide continual maintenance and general services for West Side Athletic Field by Friends University. The University typically plays a January to May season along with some fall ball. The Park Department would continue with summer scheduling for recreation events.

Solter questioned if there would be schedule conflicts between the University and recreation use. Kupper said the agreement was tentative, but there would be minimal impact on summer league or the occasional use by USD 259 high school games.

Frye asked if the agreement applied to only the main baseball field. Zimmerman said the initial agreement would be for the main field, but future expansion could include the Ladies Softball on an additional field. Friends University may try to bring an NAIA Tournament to the fields. Zimmerman is anticipating a long term investment with positive community influence.

Stevens was positive about utilizing the field assets to maximize community use. The agreement would alleviate some maintenance responsibility from the Park and Recreation Department. He saw only positive aspects about the proposal.

Frye asked if Friends University was confident their ground maintenance staff had the capability to add field maintenance to their duties. Zimmerman stated the Physical Plant Director and Head of Grounds Maintenance have visited the field and are certain they have the ability to maintain and improve the field.

Zimmerman stated the University's Community Life Standards would apply to the field as if it were on campus. Game administrators would be on site to supervise activity and behavior of attending students and visitors.

Stevens expressed his appreciation for citizen use of the facility. The partnership will show an important public/private partnership to the community.

On a motion by Goolsby, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE opening discussion between Friends University and the Park and Recreation Department to negotiate a lease agreement at West Side Athletic Baseball Fields.

Zimmerman asked for historical information concerning the fields to be used in advertisement and opening remarks at the field.

Stevens requested Zimmerman invite the Board of Park Commissioners to the first opening game at West Side Athletic Fields, home of the Friends University Falcons.

Item 2B: Naming of Chapin Landfill

The Board of Park Commissioners is being asked to name Chapin Landfill. The park is in late stages of construction, with a mid October dedication expected. Walking paths, asphalt, concrete pads and water lines have been installed. Progress is being made on the parking lot by the cities first Dog Park.

Solter stated his only feedback has been to name the area Chapin Park. The land is in Vice Mayor Skelton's District 3. He has given no recommendations, but saw nothing negative about naming the area Chapin Park. Solter would like to name the area Chapin Park.

Frye suggested the names Sunflower Park or MacArthur Park. However, he noted there is a Sunflower Park in Haysville, which is a short distance away from the area. MacArthur is the main road passing the area.

Walker attended the South Central Meeting and had positive feedback for naming the area Chapin Park.

Rundell advised the Park Board to consider City Council Policy 13 when naming the park.

On a motion by Solter, second by Frye, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to name the area Chapin Park and maintain current references to the area.

Kupper stated no further action would be required for City Council as the area is already known as Chapin Park.

Kupper reminded the members that the 55th/Hydraulic Park will also need to be named. Kupper stated the playground had been installed and is being used by the neighborhood.

Goolsby offered that Alice Wall Memorial Park may need to be renamed.

Item 2C: Bylaws, Rules and Regulations

Karen Walker, Assistant Director of Park and Recreation, presented the Park Board with draft copies of revised Bylaws and City Ordinances concerning parks. A cover memo from Sharon Dickgraft, Assistant City Attorney, explained the proposed changes to Board of Park Commissioner's Bylaws, Park Board Rules and Regulations, and City Ordinances affecting the parks. Supporting documents of additional City Ordinance and City Policy were provided to members.

The Park Board was asked to review all provided documents for discussion at the September 19, 2009 Retreat.

Item 3: Continuation of Prior Business

None.

Item 4: Review of Pending Issues

None.

Item 5: Updates from the Director and Acting President

Kupper requested a motion to move the October meeting from October 12, 2009 to October 19, 2009 as he will be at the NRPA conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

On a motion by Frye, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE changing the October 12, 2009 meeting to October 19, 2009, 3:30, Park and Recreation conference room.

The budget will be presented for vote at the City Council meeting, August 11, 2009. The plan includes the proposal to solicit the privatization of grounds maintenance. The proposed plan retains 29 grounds maintenance employees and reduces the force by 51 positions. 15 vacancies exist. 36 employees will either be reassigned to other city openings or their employment terminated.

Bids will be taken for 6000 acres divided into 15 regions. Request for Qualifications will be sent from purchasing when the budget is adopted by City Council. To qualify, companies must have the required equipment, maintain a State Commercial Pesticide License, hire no illegal aliens and provide background checks for all employees.

The next Board meeting will be September 19, 9:00 a.m., Watson Park enclosed shelter. Wichita's First Annual Play Day will follow at Watson Park from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Stevens left the meeting.

Item 6: Issues on the Horizon

Goolsby inquired to the status of naming Ryan Woodward Skate Park. Kupper stated he was waiting for instruction from the City Manager to place the item on City Council agenda. The first ever Ryan Woodward Memorial Skate Event will be held September 26, 2009 at Edgemoor Skate Park.

There will be a Wichita Play Commission sub-committee meeting 11:30, Wednesday, August 12, 2009, at Watson Park. The Playful City Proclamation will be before City Council on August 11, 2009.

Park Department is waiting on Richard Schodorf to provide the quote markers for installation.

Item 7: Adjourn

There being no further business, Frye adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Bryan Frye, Interim President

Lee Ann Sack, Clerk